

Hurricane Season

June - November

Georgia Public Radio Updates

Georgia Public Radio, in cooperation with Georgia DOT, Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA), Georgia State Patrol (GSP) and the Georgia Public Broadcasting System, will provide updates on road and traffic conditions in the event of a hurricane.

Tune into these FM stations for severe weather information.

Albany	91.7
Athens	91.7/97.9
Augusta	90.7
Brunswick	88.9
Carrollton	90.7
Columbus	88.1
Demorest	88.3
Dahlonega	89.5
Ft. Gaines	90.9
Macon	89.7
Savannah	91.1
Tifton	91.1
Valdosta	91.7
Waycross	90.1

Check These Important Links

- www.ready.ga.gov to generate a customized ready kit and plan for you and your family
- www.georgia-navigator.com/hurricane for evacuation route information for both the Atlantic and Gulf coasts
- www.gema.ga.gov for emergency shelter information
- Follow @GeorgiaEMA for updates on Twitter

Live in a Coastal Area? Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed.

- Know your evacuation and shelter routes
- Keep your emergency supplies stocked
- Remain alert for tornado watches and warnings
- Practice and discuss your family's emergency plans
- If you have pets, plan to take them with you

Recommended Items For Your Ready Kit

- A three-day supply of bottled water per person at one gallon per person, per day
- Non-perishable food (canned, dried, etc.)
- First Aid kit and any prescription medicines
- NOAA weather radio and extra batteries (available at most retail outlets)
- Flashlights, batteries
- Flares, booster cables, tire repair kit, fire extinguisher
- Special items for infants, elderly or disabled family members
- Cash, traveler's checks, change
- Important family documents (copies of insurance policies, bank account records, etc.) in a waterproof, portable container
- Extra pet food, water and supplies for your pet(s)



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HURRICANE SEASON SAFETY INFORMATION

www.dot.ga.gov

Georgia is affected by tropical systems from the Atlantic Ocean, Carribean Sea, and the Gulf of Mexico. During a hurricane, wind gusts exceeding 74 mph and torrential rain can damage Georgia’s shoreline. The direct hit of a hurricane can cause storm surge, a large dome of water more than 50 miles wide that sweeps across the coastline near the area where the hurricane makes landfall. Storm surge remains the greatest threat to human life, but effective evacuations have reduced the number of storm-related fatalities. The six coastal counties in Georgia at highest risk of evacuation because of storm surge are Bryan, Camden, Chatham, Glynn, Liberty, and McIntosh.

Georgia’s currently mandated evacuation plan is a joint effort of the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA), Georgia State Patrol (GSP), local emergency management offices, local police departments and county sheriffs’ offices.

Utilizing the traffic control systems, radios, cameras, signage, Internet sites and reversible interstate lanes that comprise its part of the evacuation process, GDOT will implement several emergency plans for increased traffic headed inland in the event of a mandatory evacuation.



HERO Units Keep Traffic Moving



GDOT Highway Emergency Response Operators (HEROs) are dispatched to the Interstate 16 corridor during a mandatory evacuation. The HEROs are easily visible due to their highly reflective yellow trucks, which are equipped with tools and materials to respond quickly to accidents and clear the roadway. HEROs are specially trained to manage incidents and assist motorists in order to maintain safe and open roads.



Changeable Message Signs Provide Updates

Electronic message signs along evacuation routes alert motorists of exit ramp closures and openings as well as locations for gas, food, and other necessities. These signs also indicate FM radio stations providing weather and traffic updates as well as shelter availability, travel times, alternate routes, and other important information.

Emergency Shelters

GEMA's Web site, www.gema.ga.gov will have information on all of the state’s emergency shelters. Listen to Georgia Public Radio broadcasts to determine which shelters are open BEFORE traveling. Some shelters are American Red Cross-approved, some are pet-friendly, and some cater to families with special needs.

Drop Gate Barricades

GDOT also has installed drop gate barricades in order to keep drivers from heading eastbound on I-16 during a mandatory evacuation. The barricades are positioned at the I-16 eastbound entrance ramps. They resemble a pair of football goal posts standing 20 feet tall. When an evacuation is ordered, the gates are lowered.

Call 511 For Real-Time Travel Information

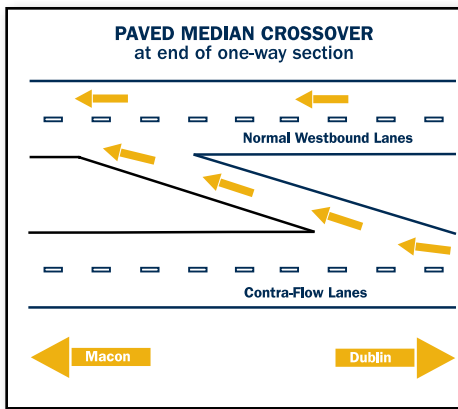


GDOT’s travel information number, 511, is accessible from any phone, anywhere in Georgia. During a mandatory evacuation, travel alerts are updated as conditions warrant, providing weather and traffic information, emergency numbers, and other important evacuee information. Live 511 Operators are also available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to take calls by selecting Option “1” or “9”.

I-16 Becomes One Way Contra-Flow Lanes

Normally I-16 carries traffic in both directions between Macon and Savannah. In the event of a mandatory evacuation from coastal Georgia, I-16 eastbound lanes will reverse to become “contra-flow” lanes. All I-16 lanes will allow only westbound traffic from Savannah to U.S. 441 in Dublin, a distance of 125 miles.

Paved Median Crossovers



To make sure the contra-flow lanes are used to their maximum capacity, GDOT installed two median “cross-overs” so that drives can transition from the normal westbound lanes into the contra-flow lanes. These median cross-overs are

east of I-95 near Savannah. Traffic accessing I-16 west of I-95 will not have the opportunity to cross over.

A third median cross-over between Macon and Dublin takes the traffic back from the contra-flow lanes back to the normal westbound lanes. From that point westward, I-16 functions as normal to and from Macon.

